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*COPY*

Aktenzeichen/File No./No. du Dossier

RS 106709 IT

Datum/Date

- 5. 09. 2001

### FACTURE / INVOICE / RECHNUNG

|                                   |     |          |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------|
| Fee for a standard search         | EUR | 1.738,00 |
| to the debit of account 2807-0066 | or  |          |
|                                   | DEM | 3.399,23 |

Le règlement de la présente facture doit intervenir "sans frais pour le bénéficiaire" dans l'une des monnaies indiquées, au compte ouvert dans cette monnaie au nom de

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- comptes bancaires et c.c.p.:  
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- Bank- und Postscheckkonten  
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|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Zeichen und Datum des Antrages<br>Applicant's reference and date<br>Références et date de la demande | 7694/10 - 26/04/01 |
| Dokument, Gegenstand der Recherche<br>Document subject of the search<br>Objet de la recherche        | ITA MI010138       |
| Einreichungstag<br>Filing date<br>Date de dépôt  | 26/01/2001         |
| Beanspruchte Priorität<br>Priority claimed<br>Priorité revendiquée                                   |                    |

OFFICE EUROPÉEN DES BREVETS  
Pour le Vice-Président,

R. de Best

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Verzeichnis der für die  
Europäische Patentorganisation  
eröffneten Bank- und  
Postcheckkonten sowie der  
entsprechenden  
Zahlungswährungen

List of bank and giro accounts  
opened in the name of the  
European Patent Organisation  
and corresponding currencies  
for payment

Liste des comptes bancaires et  
de chèques postaux ouverts au  
nom de l'Organisation  
européenne des brevets et  
des monnaies de paiement  
correspondantes

|    | Bankkonten<br>Bank accounts<br>Comptes bancaires  | Postcheckkonten<br>Giro accounts<br>Comptes de chèques postaux                               | Zahlungswährung<br>Currency for payment<br>Monnaies de paiement |
|----|---|--|---|
| AT | N° 102-133-851/00 (BLZ 12000)<br>Bank Austria AG<br>Am Hof 2<br>A-1010 Wien   | N° 7451.030<br>Österreichische Postsparkasse<br>Georg-Coch-Platz 2<br>A-1018 Wien            | Österr. Schilling<br>(ATS/EUR)                                  |
| BE | N° 310-0449878-78<br>Banque Bruxelles Lambert<br>BP 848<br>B-1000 Bruxelles   | N° 000-1154426-28<br>Banque de la Poste<br>B-1100 Bruxelles                                  | Franc belge<br>(BEF/EUR)  |
| CH | N° 322 005 01 B<br>UBS<br>CH-8021 Zürich  | N° 30-30798-1<br>Zahlungsverkehr PTT<br>Verarbeitungszentrum<br>CH-4040 Basel                | Franc suisse<br>(CHF)   |
| CY | N° 0155-08-000-850<br>Bank of Cyprus<br>21, Evagoras Av.<br>P. O. Box 1472<br>CY - 1589 Nicosia   |  | Cyprus Pound<br>(CYP)   |
| DE | N° 3 338 800 00 (BLZ 700 800 00)<br>Dresdner Bank<br>Promenadeplatz 7<br>D-80273 München  | N° 300-800 (BLZ 700 100 80)<br>Postbank München<br>D-80318 München                           | Deutsche Mark<br>(DEM/EUR)                                      |
| DK | N° 3015133753<br>Danske Bank<br>Holmens Kanal Dept.<br>Holmens Kanal 2<br>DK-1090 København K.  | N° 889-5893<br>GIROBANK A/S<br>Girostrøget 1<br>DK-0800 Høje Taastrup                        | Danske kroner<br>(DKK)  |
| ES | N° 0162/5905/89/0280348002<br>BBVA<br>Calle Alcalá 16, 3a Planta<br>E-28014 Madrid  |  | Peseta española<br>(ESP/EUR)                                    |
| FI | N° 200118-182076<br>Nordea Bank<br>Sensatintori<br>FIN-00020 Merita   | N° 800013-90405<br>Sampo<br>Fabianinkatu 23<br>FIN-00007 Helsinki                            | Suomen Markka<br>(FIM/EUR)                                      |
| FR | N° 200 20463, Code banque 30 004, Code guichet 00 567, Cle Rib 29<br>BNP<br>Agence France-Etranger<br>2 Place de l'Opéra<br>F-75002 Paris   |  | Franc français<br>(FRF/EUR)                                     |
| GB | N° 60 271 489 (sorting-code 20-00-00)<br>Barclays Bank PLC<br>54 Lombard Street<br>P.O. Box 544<br>GB-London EC3V 9EX   |  | Pound Sterling<br>(GBP)   |
| GR | N° 112002002007048<br>Credit Bank AE<br>Athens Tower Branch<br>2, Messoghion Avenue<br>GR-115 27 Athens   |  | Greek Drachma<br>(GRD/EUR)                                      |
| IE | N° 30982201 (Bank Code 80-14-80)<br>Bank of Ireland<br>Lower Baginbun Street Branch<br>P.O. Box 3131<br>IRL-Dublin 2  |  | Irish pound<br>(IEP/EUR)  |
| IT | N° 935832 01 94, ABI 02002 / CAB 03200<br>Banca Commerciale Italiana<br>Via del Plebiscito 112<br>I-00185 Roma  | N° 10568277<br>Poste Italiane<br>C.U.A.S.<br>Piazza Vesuvio 6<br>I-20144 Milano              | Lire italiana<br>(ITL/EUR)                                      |
| LU | N° 7-108/9134/200<br>Banque Internationale à Luxembourg<br>69, route d'Esch<br>L-2953 Luxembourg  | N° 28421-37<br>Administration des P. & T.<br>Chèques postaux<br>BP 2500<br>L-1090 Luxembourg | Franc belge<br>(BEF/EUR)  |
| MC | N° 254 22154, Code Banque 30 004, Code Guichet 09 179, Cle Rib 91<br>BNP<br>Succursale de Monte-Carlo Galerie Charles III<br>Avenue des Spélugues<br>Boite Postale 129<br>MC-95007 Monaco Cedex |  | Franc français<br>(FRF/EUR)                                     |
| NL | N° 51.38.38.547<br>ABN-AMRO Bank NV<br>Kruisstraat 1, Postbus 165<br>NL-2501 AP Den Haag  | N° 4012627<br>Postbank NV<br>NL-6800 MA Arnhem   | Nederlandse Gulden<br>(NLG/EUR)                                 |
| PT | N° 0015 / 0020 08-8391145 / 05<br>Sotta Mayor<br>Av. Fontes Pereira de Melo 7<br>P-1000 Lisboa  |  | Escudo português<br>(PTE/EUR)                                   |
| SE | N° 122 687 108<br>Bankgiro N° 5843-6155<br>Svenska Handelsbanken<br>S-10670 Stockholm   | N° 7 41 53-8<br>Postgirot<br>S-10506 Stockholm   | Svenska kronor<br>(SEK)   |
| TR | N° 4214-301120-1039000<br>Türkiye İS Bankası<br>Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı 8<br>TR-06640 Kızılay/Ankara   |  | Euro<br>(EUR)   |



| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  |  |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Category   | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages  | Relevant to claim           |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| Y  | R. AIELLO ET AL.: "Hydrogen production via the direct cracking of methane over Ni/SiO <sub>2</sub> : catalyst deactivation and regeneration"<br>APPLIED CATALYSIS A: GENERAL., vol. 192, 2000, pages 227-234, XP001023644<br>ELSEVIER SCIENCE, AMSTERDAM., NL<br>ISSN: 0926-860X<br>* the whole document *           | 1-13                        |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| Y  | POIRIER M G ET AL: "CATALYTIC DECOMPOSITION OF NATURAL GAS TO HYDROGEN FOR FUEL CELL APPLICATIONS"<br>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HYDROGEN ENERGY, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS B.V., BARKING, GB,<br>vol. 22, no. 4, 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01), pages 429-433, XP000678376<br>ISSN: 0360-3199<br>* the whole document * | 1-13                        |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| X  | WO 99 43608 A (NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORP)<br>2 September 1999 (1999-09-02)<br>* the whole document *   | 1,7                         |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| X  | CHOUDHARY T V ET AL: "STEPWISE METHANE STEAM REFORMING: A ROUTE TO CO-FREE HYDROGEN"<br>CATALYSIS LETTERS, BALTZER, SCIENTIFIC PUBL, BASEL, CH,<br>vol. 59, no. 2/4, June 1999 (1999-06), pages 93-94, XP000835412<br>ISSN: 1011-372X<br>* the whole document *  | 1,7                         |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims   |  |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| Date of completion of the search<br>28 August 2001   |  | Examiner<br>Van der Poel, W |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| <table border="0"><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td><td>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</td><td>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</td></tr><tr><td>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</td><td>D : document cited in the application</td></tr><tr><td>A : technological background</td><td>L : document cited for other reasons</td></tr><tr><td>O : non-written disclosure</td><td>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr><tr><td>P : intermediate document</td><td></td></tr></table> |  |                             | CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | T : theory or principle underlying the invention | X : particularly relevant if taken alone | E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date | Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category | D : document cited in the application | A : technological background | L : document cited for other reasons | O : non-written disclosure | & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | P : intermediate document |  |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS  | T : theory or principle underlying the invention   |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone   | E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category   | D : document cited in the application  |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| A : technological background   | L : document cited for other reasons   |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| O : non-written disclosure   | & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document   |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |
| P : intermediate document  |  |                             |                             |  |  |   |  |                                       |                              |                                      |                            |  |                           |  |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C17)



| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Category  | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages   | Relevant to claim                       |
| X   | DATABASE WPI<br>Section Ch, Week 198426<br>Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB;<br>Class E36, AN 1984-162882<br>XP002176039<br>& SU 243 580 A (AS UKR GAS INST),<br>15 January 1984 (1984-01-15)<br>* abstract *<br>----- | 1,7                                     |
|   |   | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (Int.CL.7) |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims  |   |   |
| Date of completion of the search<br>28 August 2001  |   | Examiner<br>Van der Poel, W             |
| <b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b><br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |   |   |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C17)

## ANNEX TO THE STANDARD SEARCH REPORT NO.

RS 106709

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-08-2001

| Patent document<br>cited in search report | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
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| WO 9943608      A                         | 02-09-1999          | AU      2687399 A          | 15-09-1999          |
|   |                     | AU      2773799 A          | 15-09-1999          |
|   |                     | CN      1291165 T          | 11-04-2001          |
|   |                     | EP      1060123 A          | 20-12-2000          |
|   |                     | WO      9943609 A          | 02-09-1999          |
| <hr/>                                     |                     |                            |                     |
| SU 243580      A                          | 15-01-1984          | NONE                       |                     |
| <hr/>                                     |                     |                            |                     |